

THE ROMULUS RECORD

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March 6, 2003

DATE

City ready to roll on Merriman Road project

Pam Fleming
Staff writer

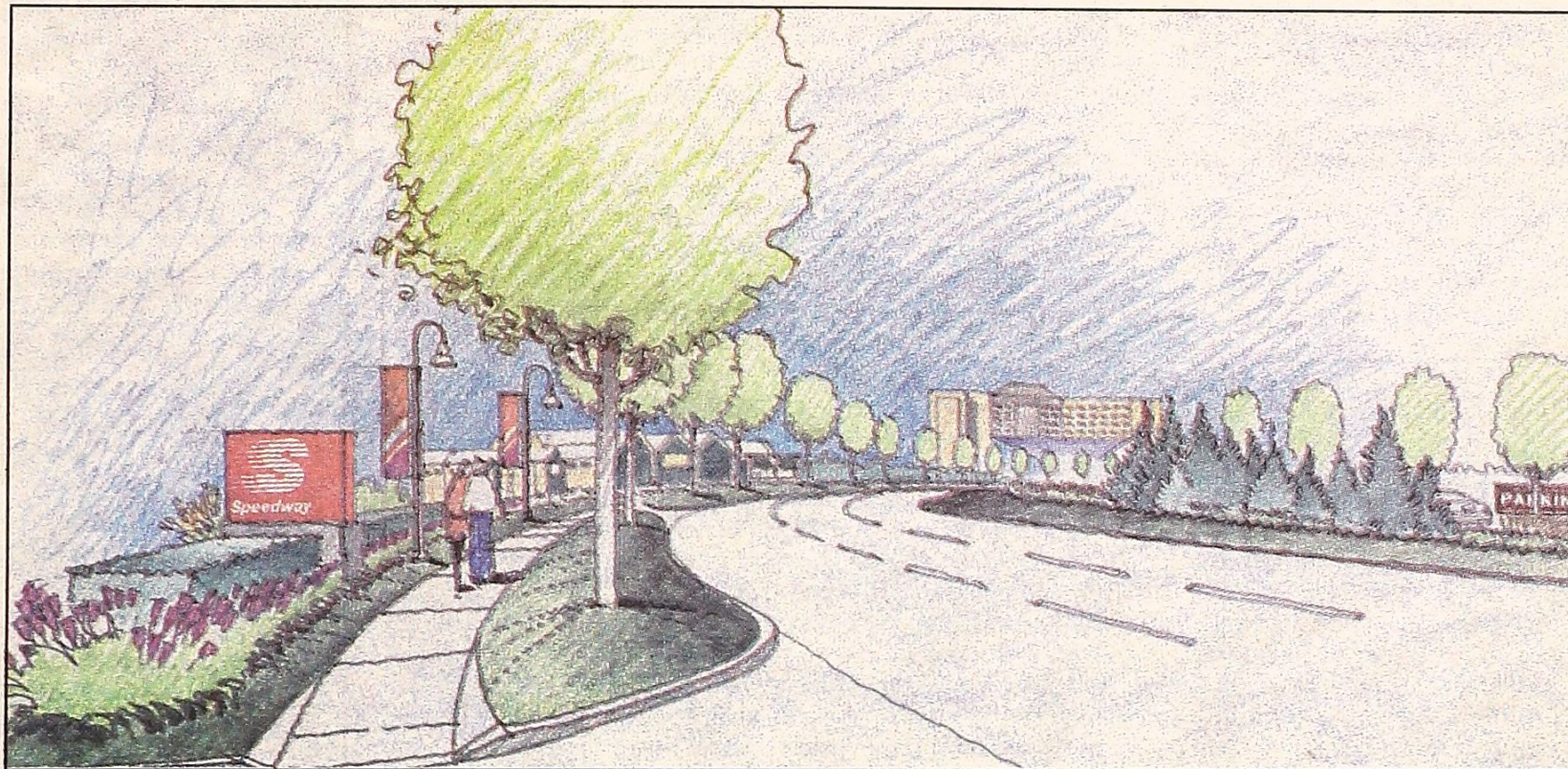
Beauty is in the eye of the beholder or, in this case, the eye of the motorist.

The Romulus Economic Development Department wants drivers to have more attractive scenery to view when traveling Merriman Road. And, city officials believe some aesthetic enhancements would not only help current area businesses, but be attractive to new ones.

As area business owners begin to discuss details of design with landscape architects, the Merriman Road Beautification Project actually begins to approach reality.

Business owners met last week at city hall with Timothy Keyes, economic development director, and representatives from Grissim Metz Andriese Associates, a Northville landscape architecture and civil engineering firm hired to draft a proposal.

The project involves the beau-



This architect's rendering shows ideas presented for the Merriman Road Beautification Project in Romulus. The city must spend a \$227,000 grant by the end of this year. Illustration courtesy of Grissim Metz Andriese Associates

tification of a stretch of Merriman Road from I-94 to Ecorse Road. The city has

\$227,000 in grant money that will be used to fund the beautification project.

"It's our major commercial corridor and we don't think it has a good face on it," Keyes said.

Keyes explained that it's crucial that the project begin as soon as possible. "The grant money has been sitting around since 1995 and we have to spend the money this year," he said.

The city will finalize the master plan on the project and accept bids in the spring with construction to start in the summer.

"We have no intent to change

the roadway at all," Keyes said. "But we do want to integrate what's being done at the airport."

John Grissim of Grissim Metz Andriese Associates addressed Merriman corridor business owners recently. He showed examples of landscape beautification projects completed by the firm in Houston, TX, Northville, Milford, Farmington Hills, Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Farms, Birmingham and Centerpoint in Pontiac.

Grissim explained that the firm takes into consideration the speed of passing cars when designing landscapes.

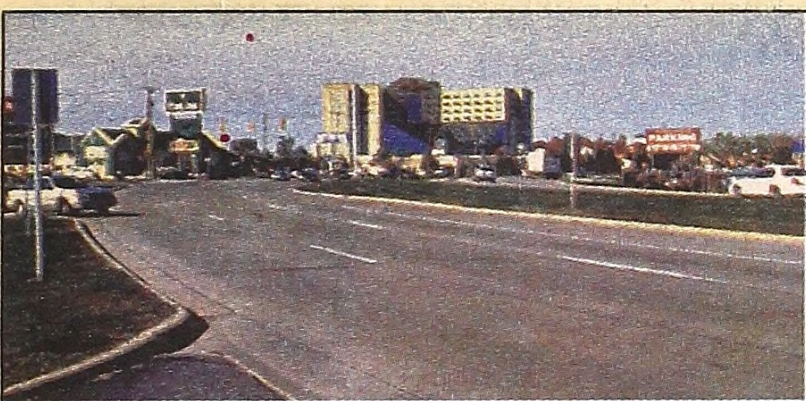
"We have design concepts for travel at 50 to 60 mph. And, we like to place more intense landscaping at intersections using flowers and adding brick crosswalks, benches and waste receptacles," Grissim said.

Monument-style signs also direct drivers' eye at ground level when they're looking for a hotel or gas station.

"We create a park-like atmosphere," Grissim said.

The firm also plans to construct an identity sign on the corridor.

See **Merriman**, page 3



This section of Merriman Road is scheduled to benefit from landscape architects' design work.

Metropolitan Airport to change commercial users' fees

Pam Fleming
Staff writer

The free ride is over for commercial vehicles visiting Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

Lester Robinson, CEO of the Wayne County Airport Authority, announced last week that the authority will begin to charge off-airport transportation providers picking up passengers a fee for access to airport facilities.

Airport management expects Metro Airport to earn about \$1 million annually in commercial vehicle fees and plans to use the money to fund capital projects.

"Detroit Metro Airport is a user-funded facility," said Robinson. "Those who benefit from the airport, such as airlines, restaurants, car rental companies, gift shops, parkers, passengers and contractors all pay their fair share."

"Taxpayers are not obligated to financially support the airport or back our bonds unless they use the facility. That's why it's important to capture revenue from airport users. These rather nominal charges will help support capital projects at the airport," he said.

At first, airport management will assign a flat monthly fee to commercial vehicles based on their frequency of

visits. But by the end of the year, an Automated Vehicle Identification (AVI) system will be installed to electronically track commercial vehicles as they enter and exit ground transportation facilities.

The authority has mailed letters to such providers informing them of the change.

Off-airport commercial vehicles using the airport will fall into a certain category based on how frequently they visit the airport and the passenger capacity of the vehicles.

See **Airport**, page 3

Inspections may soon increase at Michigan landfills

Pam Fleming
Staff writer

Steven Chester, the new director of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), wants to increase inspections at Michigan landfills and is developing a plan to do so.

Chester announced his intent

during a Feb. 19 appropriations subcommittee meeting on environmental quality in Lansing.

State Senators Ray Basham (D-Taylor) and Liz Brater (D-Ann Arbor) commended Chester on his plan to enhance the enforcement of Michigan landfill regulations.

"Both Senator Basham and I

have introduced bills to regulate waste disposal in our state," Brater said.

"We will be working closely with Chester, the governor and our House and Senate colleagues to enact legislation that will clean up our landfills and stem the tide of trash being shipped into our state."

Currently, landfill inspections are performed on a quarterly basis. Chester would like to make the inspections more frequent and include "surprise" visits. One goal of the DEQ inspections is to check landfills for prohibited items such as car batteries, hazardous waste, yard waste and used motor oil.

"Chester's leadership on the issue of waste disposal in Michigan is critical, and increasing inspections is a great first step," Basham said.

Basham and Brater both serve on the Senate Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee and Brater is the minority vice chair.

Going once Rotary Club to host art auction

Scott Spielman
Editor

The Wayne Rotary Club is banking on the art world to help generate funds.

The group is hosting an art auction on Friday, March 28 that will feature a wide variety of artists, according to longtime Rotarian and current President Donald Smith.

"This is the first time we did something like this," said Smith, who suggested the art auction fundraiser to the group. "We're really excited."

The event starts at 7 p.m. at the Wayne Community Center and it is open to the public. The first hour will allow participants to stroll through the many set-up galleries and get a preview of the art, and the auction will start at 8 p.m., Smith said.

The art will be supplied by the Marlin Art center of New York, he said. The collection will include watercolors, oils, lithographs and serigraphs from artists like Wooster Scoot, LeRoy Neiman, Delacroix, Chagall, Tarkay, Lena Liu, Norman Rockwell and many others. Anyone interested in attending should get their tickets early - that way they can have a voice in the types of art that will be up for auction that night, Smith said.

"When someone orders a ticket, we'll ask them what type of art they want brought in," he said. "There's no sense in filling a whole room with impressionists if nobody wants it."

Tickets for the event are \$10, and admission includes complementary hors d'oeuvres and door prizes. There will also be a cash bar serving beer and wine, Smith said.

"This will be a fun, social event," said Wayne City Manager John Zech, who serves as chair of the fundraiser. "We're pleased to present such an outstanding collection of art and we will have something for everyone's taste and price range."

Smith said he expected the art to go for between \$40 to more than \$1,000, depending on the type of art and artist. The auctioneer would begin each piece at about half the retail value and work from there, he said.

"It's a good deal for everyone," he said.

Proceeds go toward the many projects supported by the Wayne Rotary. Since their inception in 1922, they've given more than \$500,000 toward scholarships in the Wayne-Westland school system, donated funds for more than 35,000 library books at the Wayne Public Library and helped groups like the YMCA, the

Penrickton Center for the Blind and the senior center. Rotary members also organize two free picnics each year, one at each of the Rotary Parks they maintain, and sponsor a foreign exchange student, according to Smith.

"Everything goes right back into the community," Smith said.

On a national level, they support the overriding goal of Rotary Clubs throughout the world - the eradication of polio. Just last week, Smith said the local chapter gave a \$5,000 check to the Rotary Foundation to help further fund that goal. The Rotary Foundation has spent more than \$400 million to eradicate the disease and have it all but licked, Smith said. There are still some countries, like Afghanistan, where the group hasn't been able to go, but he said the club is working on that.

"We figure it'll take us another \$80 million to get into those countries, but we think it's a worthy goal," Smith said. "If someone comes here to visit, they can bring the disease with them."

The art auction is just one of the fundraisers the club has slated for the year, Smith said.

For tickets to the art auction fundraiser, call Smith at (734) 595-7220.

"The money is for a good cause," he said.



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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Charter Township of Van Buren Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, March 11, 2003 at 7:00 p.m.**, in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, County of Wayne, Michigan 48111.

The Public Hearing relates to Parcel Number V125-83-047-99-0001-003, commonly known as 8601 Haggerty Road. This property is located on the east side of Haggerty Road, south of Ecorse Road.

The subject site is located within the Charter Township of Van Buren M-1 (Light Industrial) Zoning District. The applicant, Daikin Clutch, is proposing to enlarge an existing one hundred twenty thousand four hundred ninety-four (120,494) square feet building by adding thirty-five thousand seven hundred thirty-nine (35,739) square feet. The existing building is a minor non-conforming structure.

The applicant is requesting the following two (2) variances:

- ARTICLE V, Section 5.04 (D)(1) NONCONFORMING USES AND BUILDINGS, ENLARGING A MINOR NONCONFORMING USE, to enlarge a minor nonconforming structure by more than 20% of the total existing structure size.
- ARTICLE XVII, Section 17.02 SCHEDULE OF REGULATIONS, FRONT YARD SETBACK, M-1 Light Industrial
 - 50 - foot minimum front yard required
 - 45 - foot minimum front yard existing and proposed
 - 5 - foot variance is requested

Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00 p.m. on the date of the above reference Public Hearing.

In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Posted: February 28, 2003
Publish: March 6, 2003

CITY OF ROMULUS NOTICE 2003 BOARD OF REVIEW

To the taxpayers of the City of Romulus: The Board of Review will meet in the Romulus City Hall, (Lower Level) Community Room, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, MI 48174 on the following dates and times by **APPOINTMENT ONLY** for the purpose of reviewing the assessment roll.

Meeting dates are as follows:

		Residential
March 10, 2003:	9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. & 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	
March 11, 2003:	2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	
		Commercial/Industrial
March 12, 2003:	9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. & 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	

Tentative ratios and estimated multipliers are as follows:

Classification	Ratio	Multiplier
Commercial	50%	1.0000
Industrial	50%	1.0000
Residential	50%	1.0000
Developmental	50%	1.0000
Personal	50%	1.0000

Review is by appointment only

Residents and Non-Residents alike may appeal by (1) making an appointment to appear before the Board OR (2) in writing (personal appearance is not required). The Board of Review **MUST** receive all written appeals no later than March 12, 2003 at 2:00 p.m.

Property owners may appoint and authorize a representative to appear on their behalf. All Representatives or Agents **MUST** submit proof of authorization to act on behalf of the property owner as a prerequisite to appeal to the Board of Review.

To schedule an appointment, please call the City of Romulus, Department of Assessment at (734) 942-7520 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Publish: February 20, 2003
February 27, 2003
March 6, 2003

Model career

Aspiring model sets sights on Big Apple

Pam Fleming
Staff writer

Kelli Weimer hopes to make it big in the Big Apple.

Chances that fame and fortune will come to the Romulus High School senior and aspiring model improved a bit recently when representatives of a local modeling agency, Traque Agency of Ferndale, invited Weimer to model at the annual Mercedes Benz Fashion Week extravaganza.

Weimer got her start in modeling when she attended a Model Search U.S.A. event in Columbus, Ohio. The program shows young people across the country how to prepare for various aspects of modeling.

Participants strut their fashion runway skills and meet representatives from various modeling agencies.

The Mercedes show was high-

Weimer's next modeling adventure will be a two-day stay in New York that will include 18 appointments with agencies in April.

ly successful for Weimer, where she received 10 callbacks from agencies, she said. Weimer chose the Traque Agency to represent her since it was the only metropolitan Detroit agency at the event.

"I was really excited to visit New York City and model Hilfiger, Klein, Nautica and Lourdes outfits before some of

the nation's best known fashion designers," Weimer said. She noted that representatives of some of the major fashion magazines such as Vogue, Glamour and In Style were also at the showing.

Her mother, Becky Weimer, a secretary at Wick Elementary School in Romulus, accompanied her daughter to New York, where they stayed at the Manhattan Hilton Hotel.

Weimer's next modeling adventure will be a two-day stay in New York that will include 18 appointments with agencies in April.

"I will have nine interviews per day and agency representatives will have an opportunity to view my portfolio and ask questions," she said.

If Weimer signs with an agency in April, she plans to move to New York this summer to further her modeling career.



Romulus High School senior Kelli Weimer had a chance to model at the Mercedes Benz Fashion Week show in New York City recently. She hopes this appearance will help her career as a professional model.



The write stuff

Tiffany Smith, a Romulus High School senior, was one of 28 winners in Mayor Alan Lambert's Drug Task Force essay contest. Contest winners were selected from each English class.

New bill would restore U.S. wetlands protection

Pam Fleming
Staff writer

Congressmen John D. Dingell (D-MI) and James Oberstar (D-MN) introduced legislation last week to restore protection to American wetlands.

The congressmen believe that U.S. wetlands are now in jeopardy due to a recent Supreme Court decision and regulatory actions by the Bush administration.

The new legislation, the Clean Water Authority Restoration Act, will restore the original intent of the 1972 Clean Water Act and reestablish protections for isolated wetlands throughout the U.S.

"The legislative history of the Clean Water Act clearly and unambiguously states that the statute applies to all the waters of the United States. The bill we are introducing reaffirms the original intent of the Act," Dingell said.

In January 2001, the Supreme Court ruled that the Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers do not have jurisdiction over certain isolated wetlands. The Bush administration has used the decision to propose even broader changes to long-established federal wetlands policy that would further weaken Clean Water Act protections, according to Dingell and Oberstar.

Sportsmen are particularly concerned about the ruling and the changes under consideration by the Bush administration, according to the congressmen. Wildlife biologists estimate that without Clean Water Act protection, much of the prime breeding habitat for waterfowl in North America could be lost, leading to devastating impacts on waterfowl populations. This could mean drastically shortened hunting seasons—or no season at all.

Merriman - Landscaping planned for area

FROM PAGE 1

"This is the gateway to the world. We want to let people know that they're arriving in Romulus," he said.

Grissum noted that businesses along the corridor will see a tremendous improvement soon after landscaping work begins this summer.

"We want to make an immediate impact," he said.

"I think this is a great opportunity for the business owners. It's about time we did something," said Leonardo Liparoto, owner of Leonardo's Restaurant on the corridor.

Vito Liparoto of Leonardo's said that homes that are still left on the corridor now look out of place with the development of hotels and restaurants along the

strip.

"We can't chase our residents out, but they're blighted buildings, we'll work to get them down," Keyes said.

One suggestion was to build fencing to block out the parking lots at Airlines Parking. "You're asking us to take a shot in the backside by screening our parking lots," said Tim Falvey, owner of Airlines Parking.

"It's just a rough time for us to do anything with flights down since Sept. 11."

"I think if we do it right, we can attract more cars to your lot," Keyes said. "We're trying to attract more business to the corridor and make your businesses more viable. We have to solidify the north end as a commercial hub."

"I think the whole project's

wonderful. I think it will be more people-pleasing and help the whole area," said Julie Allison of La Quinta hotel and Qwik Park.

"The sooner you get started the better," said Vito Liparoto.

Ali Dib from Detroit Metropolitan Airport said "We have an image problem that we're working on. We're trying to improve the aesthetics of the roadway. We want it to be a seamless entry into the airport."

Grissum said that the firm is anxious to get started on the project.

"We have an aggressive plan in mind," he said.

The city may set up some private meetings with business owners along the corridor in the near future to obtain more input from them and show them what the city has planned, Keyes said.

Airport - Frequent users to pay per-visit fee

FROM PAGE 1

Category I—Frequent User—will include courtesy vehicles such as off-airport parking shuttles, hotel shuttles and shared-ride services and cost \$260 a month.

Category II—Regular User—which includes off-airport limousine services, four-door sedans and stretch limousines, will cost \$190 a month.

Category III—Moderate User—will include tenant contracted transportation vehicles such as flight crew transportation services and cost \$70 a month.

Category IV—Infrequent User—will be for special event vehicles, charter busses and other contracted transportation vehicles and cost a flat rate of \$100 a month or \$20 per visit per terminal.

Taxi Cabs and Other

Commercial Vehicles are a separate category, with the airport selling operators of these types of vehicles books of daily coupons for \$50 a book. The books contain 25 validation coupons. Drivers must use one coupon per visit per terminal.

"Other airports which have implemented such systems have benefited in two ways. Roadway traffic and congestion is significantly reduced and important revenue is generated for the airport," Robinson said.

"It is incumbent upon us to operate this airport like a business and to recover costs associated with providing for commercial vehicles' use of the facilities. Other airports in our peer group have been capturing this revenue for many years," he said.

When Los Angeles International Airport implemented an Automated Vehicle Identification system in 1992,

commercial vehicle trips were reduced by 20 percent and the airport gained \$2.3 million in revenues from commercial vehicle fees the first year.

Nearly all airports comparable to Detroit Metro have some type of roadway cost recovery system to charge commercial users and track activity, including Dallas/Fort Worth, Denver, Houston, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Miami, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Seattle, St. Louis and San Francisco, according to airport officials.

Airport management also noted that a survey conducted by the Washington-based American Association of Airport Executives several years ago listed 90 airports that collect revenue from off-airport commercial enterprises. The airports charge vehicles that use the airport roadways, curb fronts or ground transportation facilities.

Wayne council members alter city lay-off policies

Scott Spielman
Editor

Long-time part-time workers in the City of Wayne earned a measure of protection last week when city council members considered a variety of issues before they decided who would be laid off.

Council members met in a special session at 6 p.m. Friday in front of a group of employees and community activists. They talked about a recommendation from the Personnel Board, which met the day before, about the issue of "bumping rights," which would allow part time employees the ability to move to another department rather than being laid off from their own department, according to Assistant City

Manager Robert English. He said the employee would have to be qualified for the job to have that option.

"Before we lay anyone off, they'll be subject to a complete review by the personnel director," said English, who also holds that post. He said he would look at items like the original hire date, any specialized training the employee received while working at the position, the ability of others to do his or her work and previous experience with the city. The personnel manager would have the ability to approve or reject the transfer, he said.

"The personnel board wants the personnel director to look at all these factors before anyone is laid off and then make a decision

based on continued employment," English said.

The personnel board is a three-member group consisting of Patrick Biondi, Charles Borg and David Otzman. They meet as needed at 4:30 p.m. at city hall. They typically approve job descriptions, settle disputes and oversee the hiring practices of the city. The issue of bumping rights came to the forefront recently as city officials grappled with budget cuts they said forced them to lay off eight part-time employees. Some of the part-time employees with the city have worked there more than 20 years, however, and sought to be reassigned to other departments rather than temporarily forced out of work.

"We just want some support

for people that have worked part time for the city for a long time," said Pat Bledsoe, who has worked for Wayne for 20 years.

Mayor Pro Tem Pam Dobrowolski said the employees deserved the support. She also suggested a committee be formed to look into providing benefits like vacation days or paid time off for part-time workers.

"They work hard for the city, but they don't get any comp time or sick time," she said. "It doesn't seem right. We couldn't run the city without them."

Council members changed the recommendation of the personnel board before they approved it on a 6-1 vote. One of the recommendations of the board had been to classify employees who

didn't accept their new position as having resigned, and they wanted that changed to laid off.

"The problem I had with it is that it's so final," Dobrowolski said. "I wanted something to protect employees so they could get called back."

The council also added an appeal process, first through the city manager and then the city council.

Even so, Mayor Al Haidous didn't support the recommendation. He said it put the personnel director into the political arena, rather than the elected officials.

"I think we're taking a simple situation and making it difficult," he said. "We're doing nothing but complicating the situation. I don't believe it's making the situation any better."

Non-profit housing for seniors available in Belleville

Heather Connor
Staff Writer

Belleville seniors looking for affordable housing can now apply to live in a non-profit community scheduled to open next spring.

Cooperative Services Inc. is now accepting applications for residency in the Belleville Cooperative Apartments, opening in April of 2004. Construction of the community begins soon at the northeast corner of Sumpter and Owen roads in Belleville.

"The waiting list is open," said Pat Radke, education manager for Cooperative Services.

Radke said applicants must be 62 years of age or older with a limited income. Thirty percent of each resident's monthly income is required for rental payment. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will subsidize the rest of each resident's rent, she said. Rental fees include heat and central air.

Radke said 61 apartment units are available in the three-story complex. One-bedroom and mobility-impaired units are available.

Each apartment is approximately 540 square feet and includes carpeting, individual control of heat and air, refrigerator, front-door intercom, electric range, stain-

less-steel sinks and a garbage disposal.

Anne Brandenbur, property manager for Cooperative Services, said there will be no on-site manager and that residents will participate in building management. All major operating decisions are voted on by the residents, she said.

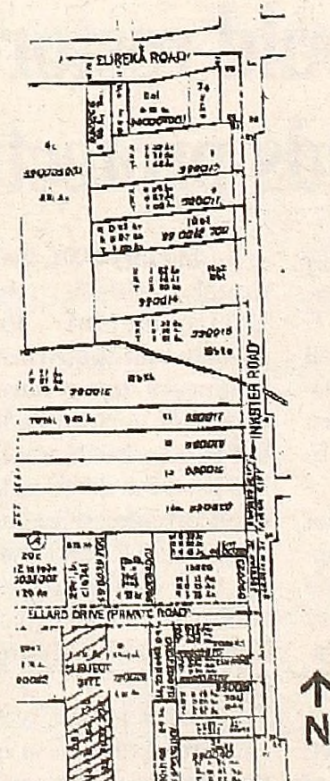
Meetings of the residents of each floor, the representative council and the general membership are scheduled monthly, she said.

Those wishing to add their name to the waiting list can call 1-800-593-3052 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday.

CITY OF ROMULUS PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING SPECIAL LAND USE PRIVATE KENNEL

Pursuant to Michigan Public Act 207 of 1921, as amended (The City and Village Zoning Act), notice is hereby given that the City of Romulus will hold a public hearing at 7:00 p.m., on Monday, March 17, 2003, for the purpose of considering a Special land use. Request is to allow a six-dog private kennel. The public hearing will be held at the Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne, Romulus MI 48174-1495.

The Planning Commission has set the public hearing to consider a request to allow a private kennel on a 1.5-acre +- parcel of land located at 27511 Ellward, parcel 82-80-141-99-0037-700. The parcel is zoned R1-A, Single Family Residential, Private Kennels are permitted in the R1-A district, subject to Special Land Use Approval. Copies of the application are available for review at City Hall during regular business hours.



All interested parties are encouraged to attend and will be given an opportunity to comment on said request. Written comments may be submitted until 12:00 noon, Monday, March 17, 2003, and should be addressed to Cynthia I. Lyon, AICP, City Planner, Economic Development Department, 11111 Wayne, Romulus, MI 48174-1485.

Linda R. Choate, CMC, City Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

Publish: March 6, 2003

Hours:
Mon-Fri-10am-6pm
Sat-10am-5pm

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Show offs

Belleville car club members win honors at AutoRama

Heather Connor
Staff Writer

For T.J. Stafford, going to the 51st Annual Detroit AutoRama at Cobo Hall as a participant was a dream come true.

Stafford, who is president of the Fat Azz Car Club, said he is proud of the second-place trophy his club received for best car club display at AutoRama. Eight of the 15 club members entered their customized vehicles in the show and seven brought home trophies, including a 1954 Chevy Bel-Air that the club restored as a group project. The car placed first in its class.

"AutoRama is the biggest custom car show in Michigan. I figured what would make or break you (as a car customizer) is AutoRama," Stafford said. "I always dreamed of having something down there, but I never thought it would be with the family."

For Stafford, just getting the low-rider car club admitted into

"My trophy was to go down there and have a good time.

We were aware of what happened in the past. Getting in alone was good enough for me.

T.J. Stafford

the show was enough of an honor. He said he had heard about rowdy car clubs causing trouble at AutoRama in years past and was worried his group would not be welcomed. Stafford said the club must have set a good example.

"My trophy was to go down there and have a good time," Stafford said. "We were aware of what happened in the past. Getting in alone was good enough for me."



This 1978 Pontiac LeMans placed second in its class for a customized wagon at the annual Detroit AutoRama at Cobo Hall. Owner Paul Kotowsky of Belleville said he spent four years working on the car. "Just going down there and being in the show is a prize in itself," he said.

Stafford said he is amazed by how far the club has come since he and friend Paul Kotowsky started Fat Azz a year ago as a customizing business, which still operates in New Boston. Stafford and Kotowsky started working on their own cars and displaying them at local shows. The club participates in many car shows throughout the year, earning eight best club trophies since June and six first place tug-of-war trophies, Stafford said. The club makes sure to participate in shows like the Ypsilanti Area Street Rods in May and the Midnight Cruisers of Belleville in August to support the community, he said.

Stafford said Fat Azz is a tightly knit, family orientated club.

Many members are either related or grew up together in the Ypsilanti or Belleville area, he said. Most have three or four young children who are included in club activities. Stafford said the club organizes parties for the children and includes them in meetings and activities. The children also have their own bicycle and pedal-car club called "Fat Kids Customs."

"Everyone takes care of each other," said Ron Snyder, the youngest club member. "Everyone helps each other out."

Snyder, 19, displayed his 2001 Ford Mustang GT Stalker at AutoRama. He was the only one to come home without a trophy, but it didn't bother Snyder. He said to have so many people com-

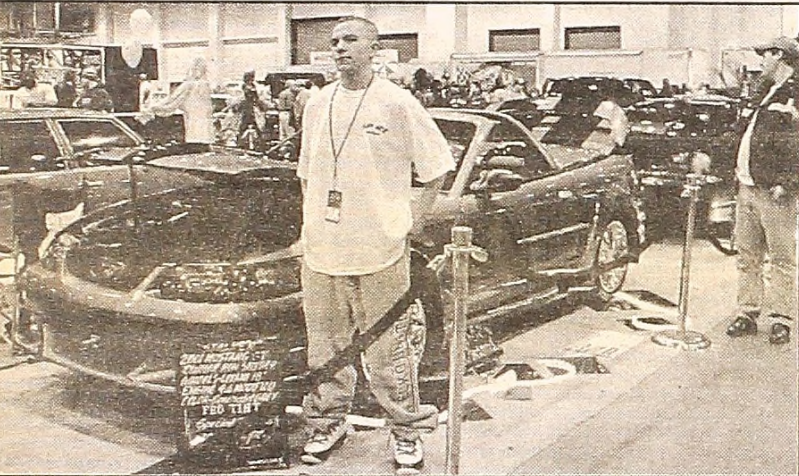
plimenting his car was enough.

"I put all that money in that car for that reason," Snyder said.

The club members work during winter months to modify their vehicles for the coming show season, according to Stafford. He said most Sundays in the summer the club spends at car shows or members meet at a cookout or other activity. The passion for cars keeps the group together, Stafford said.

"Some people collect books and cards. I work on my car," Snyder said. It's the most expensive hobby you can have. It's an addiction. Once you start you can't stop."

"This is what we enjoy. We can't wait until the next Sunday," Stafford said.



Ron Snyder of Belleville stands proudly next to his customized 2001 Ford Mustang GT Stalker at the annual Detroit AutoRama last month. The vehicle features customized stripes, fiber optic neon lights and a 7-inch TV with an X-Box gaming system. The Fat Azz Custom Car Club of Belleville brought home many awards from the show.

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OPINION

Playing well with others

Officials in the Northville community continue to provide a source of surprise through their innovative and creative cooperative efforts.

The latest in the long line of partnerships is the planned renovation and expansion of the playground between the Old Village School on Main Street and the Northville Community Center.

The Playground Design Committee, which is made up of representatives from the Old Village School, the school district, the Northville Senior Advisory council and concerned parents, have devised a plan that will provide more space, better aesthetics and, most importantly, increased safety.

It would be easy to overlook this victory. It would be easy to dismiss it as a simple playground that officials have decided to upgrade, which is something that happens all the time. School board members approved, at the same meeting, about \$130,000 in additional expenditures for three other playgrounds at other schools.

It would also be easy to gloss over the issue, decorate it with a rubber stamp of approval and attach the cliché of a win-win situation that politicians are always working toward, but that would be a disservice to those who toiled for so long to develop a plan beneficial to all parties.

What the playground design committee did, behind the scenes and through a series of forward-thinking meetings, was to turn a potentially negative and at best tense situation into a real positive for the community.

Members of the senior advisory council were tentative in their approach to the school district as they pursued the option to expand the community center. The most attractive plan, and the one ultimately settled on, saw the community center expand toward the west, where the Old Village School serves the needs of special children from throughout Wayne County. That expansion meant cutting into the special playground. At first it looked like the only way to accomplish the expansion of the community center was at the cost of the playground, and the special needs students that frequent it.

The school district deserves some credit here for not immediately shooting the proposal down. Officials may have met the question with skepticism, but they ultimately saw it as an opportunity and they embraced it.

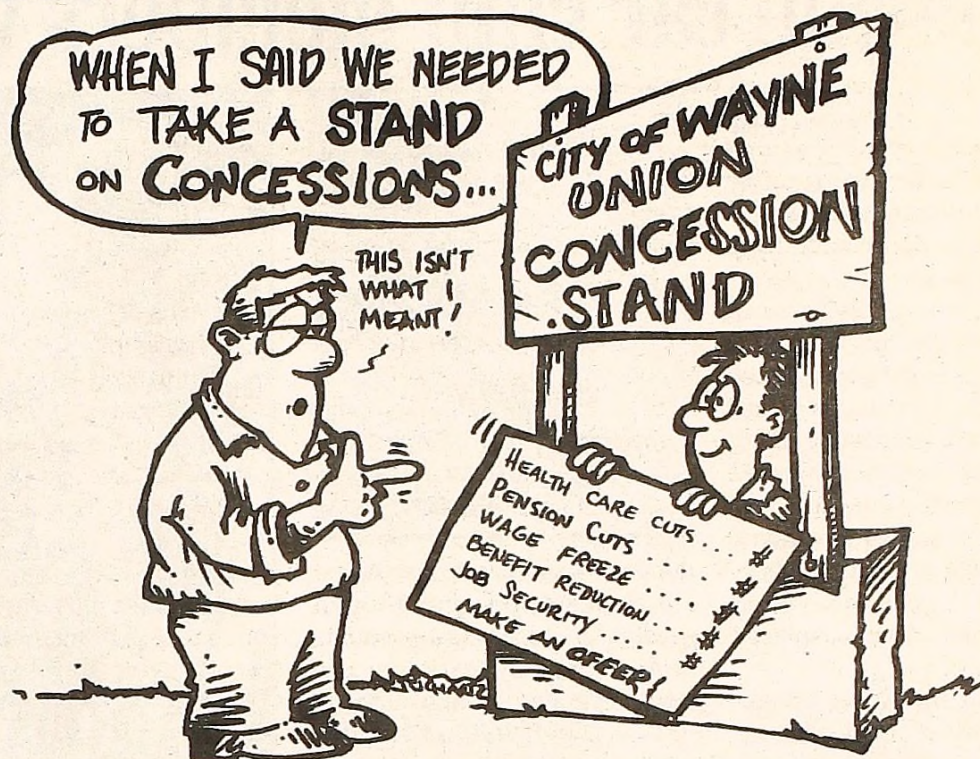
The school district deserves some credit here for not immediately shooting the proposal down. Officials may have met the question with skepticism, but they ultimately saw it as an opportunity and they embraced it.

They formed the committee to fully investigate the possibility of revamping the playground and providing room for the expansion of the community center, as well.

It took some time. Committee members who signed on for three meetings saw that increase to more than five. The end result, however, was worth the additional time put in. It will provide a real benefit for the community in and of itself and also allow for the expansion of the community center, a concept already approved by the school board and much needed for the growing senior citizen population.

The school district has collaborated with the community in the past. The lease for the community center is one example – the building is owned by the district, which leases it to the Parks and Recreation Department for \$1 for 25 years. Another recent successful collaboration is the ongoing relationship between the Parks and Recreation Department and the schools through the use of space at

See Play, page 7



'Concessions' of a dangerous mind

Working in the newspaper business has given me a lot of opportunities to do things I never thought I'd do.

Some of them are things I'd wanted to do (others weren't) and others have taken me completely by surprise.

Take, for instance, the topic of this column: sticking up for union city workers.

I admit, I've never been a fan of unions, although in some cases they serve a vital purpose. In the City of Wayne, though, they're getting a raw deal.

By now everybody knows that the city is in tough financial shape. I've written the words so often, and most people have heard or read them so often that they can recite them by rote: reduced state shared revenue and reduced interest income have taken a chunk out of cities like Wayne, that have already reached their growth potential.

As a way to cut costs, city officials proposed opening negotiations with the current unions to see if workers will make some concessions on contracts they've already signed and, in some cases, are valid for more than three years.

I suppose it's a valid attempt; the contracts signed by these unions will increase the city payroll by about \$300,000 this year. City officials are looking to at least half that – they want union members to take a 1.5 percent increase in salary rather than the 2 or 3 percent increase their contracts provide. They also want employees to pay 10 percent of health care premiums, rather than the 1 percent of their base pay that they contribute now.

The city did several things right before they start-

ed these negotiations. The city council members voted to forego their salaries for the remainder of the year, and possibly next year. City department heads have already accepted a pay freeze in July, and agreed to pay 20 percent of their health premiums, rather than the 1 percent of their base salary. In effect, they're not asking anyone to do anything they haven't already done to a greater degree themselves.

Even so, it puts the unions in a difficult position. In some cases, their members in good faith negotiated longer contracts than they had before to show their commitment to the city. The Command Officers Association of Michigan (COAM), for example, has a contract in force through 2006. Asking them to go back into that and trim out some of the hard-won concessions is a pretty lousy way to acknowledge that commitment.

They may not be in the mood to give back to the city because it's difficult to reclaim something once you've given it up. For once, I agree with them. I don't think they should have to renegotiate a new contract simply because times are difficult now. I rather doubt city officials wanted to open up their contracts and renegotiate higher wages and additional benefits when the economy was in an upswing.

But union members may feel they're forced to make these compromises or run the risk of taking the blame for the dire financial straits in the city, and that's a shame because this is an unfortunate situation where no one is truly to blame.

Close to the Edge

by Scott Spielman

Too much flambé fogs the memory

Recent news reports out of Paris serve as a reminder that the Mortimer Snerd Factor is alive and well.

Mortimer Snerd was one of ventriloquist Edgar Bergen's dummies. His persona is best illustrated by a particular exchange, in which Bergen asked, "Mortimer, why are you so stupid?" Snerd replied, "I dunno, but it ain't easy."

The Snerd Factor is a simple truth, that in a room full of Elmer Eggheads, there will be one Mortimer Snerd to decrease the level of intelligent discourse or to generally mess things up.

In the community of nations, we now see that Mortimer Snerd wears a beret. What else can one conclude from a French government whose caterpillar-like response to the war on terrorism recalls similar responses to two twentieth century war-mongers that resulted in humiliating defeat? With their recent relations to bloodthirsty tyrant Saddam Hussein, one might think that the country has either a Snerd-like stupidity or a death wish. And, of course, they blame America.

That attitude rubs us the wrong way because

tens of thousands of Americans shed blood to help keep France free from tyranny. Yet, they act as if they could have triumphed without our help.

Back in the global village, the United States is seen as the bully and is treated with the disdain that bullies deserve. If recent tabloid articles are a correct portrayal of their attitude, even the British people treat us as if George W. Bush mooned the Queen. We wonder why.

I know there are sociologists who are more knowledgeable than I am, but I cannot help but think that the European attitudes spring from each nation's particular vision of itself.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld hit the nail on the head when he referred to "old Europe." It is a perfectly sensible label, even though it lit a fire to the French Gauloises, so to speak. The Western European governments act as if their nations have been around for centuries. They have been.

Hold the Phone

by Russ Franzen

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for general business, advertising or editorial information.

See French, page 7

LETTERS

Court scheduling criticized

To the editor;
I read the article in the Inkster Ledger Star Jan. 30 regarding 'Council tables budget revision.'

It's too bad that they have to hire an occasional "court magistrate" AKA judge to handle the overload of court cases.

I've been in the courtroom several times. Everyone is assigned an 8:30 or 9 a.m. court time. Basically it's a first come, first serve basis (when the lawyer comes in and signs in.

Then you have your Honorable Judge (Sylvia) James who strolls in about 10:30-11. After she settles in and gets all beautiful, she hears a few small cases. Then it's lunchtime about 12:30-1 p.m. Everyone has to stay there because if they leave, they are going to issue you a warrant. If they do convene after lunch, it may be nearly 2 p.m.

So that's why the cases are backlogged. Some days court is over by 4 p.m. I've noticed that Wednesdays are usually the days set aside for court.

One occasion, I was there to pay a ticket and a young mom whose court time was 9 a.m. was very upset and told the court officer she needed to pick up her child from school (it was 2:35). He told her if she left the building, she would be issued a warrant for her arrest. She explained the seriousness in having to get her child and said she would be right back. He shrugged his shoulders.

Her case should have been heard at 9 a.m. Why should citizens have to be treated like second class when we live in a city that does business second class?

I happen to live in Inkster only because the housing is cheap and it's close to my job. Other than that, the city services like court and city hall are ridiculous.

Laurie Johnson,
Inkster

Resident praises board of education

To the editor;
A very deserving thank you from 7,000 senior citizens in Northville goes to the (members of the) board of education.

The board recently approved the use of school property for the city and township to expand the Main Street community building by 6,000 square feet for the senior programs.

The seniors have searched for years for a larger building than the 600 square foot building they are using in the Scout Building on Cady Street. Our Northville senior population has always contributed to the community and yet has lacked a place to be proud of for their growing needs and activities.

Northville School's approval of this land use ends years of searching and rewards this growing population group for all they have done for Northville. It provides an ideal drop point and keeps the programs new the post office, library, shops and restaurants.

Thank you for this approval and another fine example of the city, township and Northville schools all working together to help each other. This expansion and renovation will be a wonderful facility everyone will be proud of.

Jim Nield
Northville Senior Advisory Board

French - History lessons unlearned

FROM PAGE 6
Unfortunately for them, they are now far-removed from the struggles needed to build their nations. They have forgotten their roots.

Not so in the United States. As nations go, we are relatively young. We count only 43 Executives, while England has almost that many King Henrys. America is populated with people like me, who are only a generation or two removed from ancestors who came here to make a new life or to flee oppression.

Our national pride does not rest on wine, white sauce, or hot, buttered snails, but on freedom.

Americans, as perceived by the rest of the world, walk with a swagger and speak our minds. That is the very behavior that it took to forge a nation, building cities in the wilderness and connecting those far-away places so that we could, out of many towns, villages, cities, and states, become one People.

It is that swagger that defeated the Hun, Hitler, Hirohito, and the Soviet Bear. We earned the right to walk with a swagger and I, for one, will never apologize to my European and Scandinavian brethren for it.

It does not surprise me that many of the countries standing beside us in the fight against global terrorism are from the former Soviet Bloc. They understand oppression. They know why the Soviet system failed.

They know that the freedom-loving people of the United States were too stubborn to back down in their Cold War battles with the Soviets.

We did not back down then, when world opinion was against us. We will not back down now.

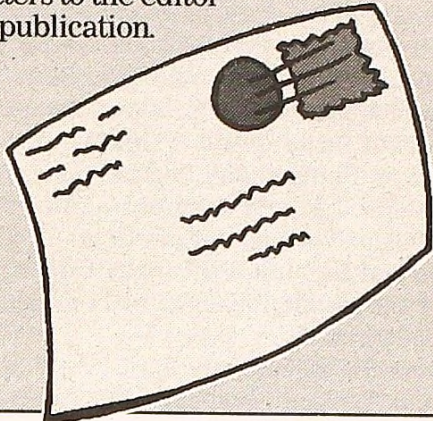
There are no guarantees that a post-Saddam Iraq will embrace democracy. Yet, its oppressed people need, at least, to have their chains released long enough for them to taste freedom and have the opportunity to try the recipe for themselves.

Send us your letters

The Journal welcomes all signed letters to the editor and will consider all submissions for publication.

Mail letters to:
The Journal, P.O. Box 701422,
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Letters may be edited for content or space and must include a phone number for verification of identity.



Play - Northville cooperation is admirable

FROM PAGE 7
Hillside Middle School. That is approaching the anniversary of its second full year, to the benefit of the teachers, students, and the parks and recreation department, as well as other organizations like the Northville Youth Assistance.

In many ways it's not a surprise that the playground issue has been resolved in a fashion beneficial to the entire community and ultimately cheaper for each one (the city and township will contribute about \$130,000 of the cost of the project through federal grant funds, and the school district will pick up the rest). They have a long history of cooperation and plenty of practice in working together.

Northville School Superintendent

Leonard Rezmierski probably best summed up the situation when he noted: "If we ever wanted a project to crystallize the meeting of the minds between the city, township and the school district, this is it."

That is fortunate, because there are still some issues that need to be resolved, most notably, the additional parking required for the two buildings. The new senior center will require additional spots as will the playground, if it proves as popular as officials say. School officials haven't delved too deeply into the parking situation yet because the city is examining the issue, as a whole for the downtown area.

When the time comes, we're sure the cooperation on that issue will be as strong as it has been on other projects in the past. It's where that history comes in to play.



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DESCRIPTION:

BEGINNING at the Southwest corner of Lot 207 of Carver Homes Subdivision, as recorded in Liber 75, Page 19 of Plats, Wayne County Records; thence N00°00'00"E 28.00 feet along the West line of said lot 207 and the East line of Northland Street (60 feet wide); thence S89°43'13"E 1005.22 feet; thence S44°46'14"E 39.63 feet; thence N89°43'13"W 1033.13 feet along the North right-of-way line of Annapolis Avenue (86 Feet wide) to the Place of Beginning, being a part of said Lot 207.

Any person or entity who could be liable for costs to be assessed for construction, operation or maintenance of this drain, may object and be heard.

Kerreen Conley, Drain Commissioner
Division of Public Works
Wayne County Department of Environment

Publish: March 6, 2003

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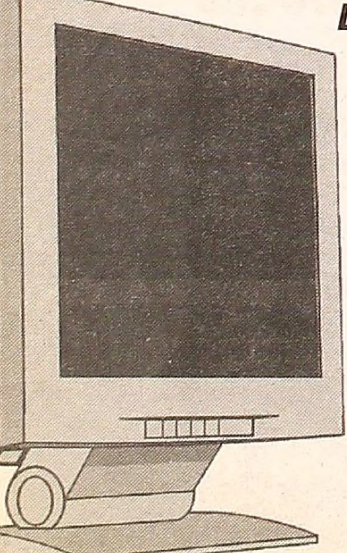
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OBITUARIES

FUNCHAR, Thelma

Thelma M. Funchar, 82, of Moscow Township, formerly of Romulus, died Feb. 23 at Hillsdale Medical Care Facility.

Among her survivors are her sons, Steven Funchar of Flat Rock and Andrew Funchar, Jr. of Ypsilanti; a daughter, Susan Grant of North Adams; brothers, James Hamlin of Bartlesville, Okla., William Hamlin of Buffalo, Okla., Max Hamlin of Villeplatte, La., and Samuel Hamlin of Enid, Okla.; sisters, Margarete Stout of Texas and Patricia Clifford of Copan, Okla.; six grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were at St. Aloysius Catholic Church in Romulus with Father Alexander J. Wytrwal of St. Stephen Catholic Church in New Boston officiating.

Interment was at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Detroit.

Arrangements were entrusted to the Crane Funeral Home in Romulus.

GENZ, Geane N.

Geane N. Genz, of Belleville, died Feb. 25.

Among his survivors are his niece, Rhonda Dudley and nephew, Robert J. Adis.

Arrangements were entrusted to the Harry J. Will Funeral Home in Wayne.

SWARTOUT, Lynn Marie

Lynn Marie Swartout, 38, of Lincoln Park died Feb. 23 at Oakwood Hospital.

Among her survivors are her fiancé, Ray Street of Lincoln Park and a sibling, Lonnie Laveque of Algonac.

Funeral services were at the David C. Brown Funeral Home in Belleville with the Rev. Jim Parks officiating.

Interment was at Hillside Cemetery.

DESHON, Nancey

Nancey V. DeShon, 61, of Belleville, died Feb. 28 at home.

Among her survivors are her children, Kathleen Shockley of Belfair, WA., William DeShon of Phoenix, AZ, and Gordon DeShon of Mt. Clemens; sisters, Betty (Frank) August of Belleville, Catherine Kay (Paul) Atkins of Belleville and Joyce (Henry) Tkachuk of Romulus; a brother, Richard (Marilyn) Stull of Belleville, and a sister-in-law, Lorna Stull of Lake Villa, ILL.

Services were at the David C. Brown Funeral Home in Belleville with Chaplain Fred Cislo, Jr. officiating.

Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park.

BOTTS, Alonzo

Alonzo Botts, 82, of Sumpter Township, died Feb. 28 at Arbor Hospice.

Among his survivors are his daughter, Kay Hackney of Belleville; brother, Ezra (Kathy) Botts of Cincinnati, Ohio; sisters, Maggie (Bob) Waite of Ludlow, KY., Henrietta (Jessie) Bridges of Pioneer, TN and Beatrice (Bernard) Hennegler of Cincinnati, Ohio; four grandchildren, Scott, Kathy, Tammy and Rick, and four great-grandchildren, Corwin, Caleb, Peter and Rebecca.

Mr. Botts was a veteran of the U.S. Army where he served in the anti-aircraft division.

He was a member of the VFW Post 04422 in Taylor.

Funeral services were at Harp Funeral Home in Jellico, TN. With Pastor Pete Norman officiating.

Interment was at Douglas Cemetery in Oswego, TN.

Arrangements were entrusted to the David C. Brown Funeral Home.

GRANT, Pauline

Pauline Hazzard Grant, 86, of Inkster, died Feb. 6 in Taylor.

Among her survivors are her daughter, Sarah; an adopted daughter, Geraldine; three grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Grant served as an educator in the Detroit Public Schools for 42 years.

Services were at the Mayflower Congregational United Church of Christ with the Rev. James M. Curenton officiating. Interment was at Woodlawn Cemetery in Detroit.

Arrangements were entrusted to the Penn Funeral Home.

SMITH, Cora Mae

Cora Mae Smith, 86, of Inkster, died Feb. 8 in Wayne.

Among her survivors are her son, Johnny (Ida) Smith; four sisters; a brother; four grandchildren, and several great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were at Amity Baptist Church with the Rev. Anthony Eaddy officiating.

Interment was at Mt. Hope Cemetery in Livonia.

Arrangements were entrusted to the Penn Funeral Home.

CALDWELL, Clarence

Clarence Caldwell, 80, of Merrill, died Jan. 28 in Newaygo County.

Among his survivors are his daughters, Donna and Michelle; five sisters; 10 grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.

Mr. Caldwell was a 32nd Degree Mason from St. John's Lodge 44 and a member of the Idlewild Foundation. He retired from Ford Motor Co. after 35 years of employment.

Funeral services were at New Prospect Missionary Baptist Church of Detroit with the Rev. William Johnson officiating.

Interment was at United Memorial Gardens.

Arrangements were entrusted to the Penn Funeral Home.

GUYTON, Clifford

Clifford Guyton, of Inkster, died Jan. 28 in Wayne.

Among his survivors are his children, Clifford Jr., Clarence, Doug and Brian; daughters, Lynn, Gwen and Lori; several grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Mr. Guyton was a veteran of WWII.

Funeral services were at Penn Funeral Home in Inkster with the Rev. Terry Hister officiating.

Interment was at Detroit Memorial Park West in Redford.

MANIER, Deacon Wiliam

Deacon William Manier, 72, of Westland, died Feb. 5 in Westland.

Among his survivors are his daughter, Michelle; sons, Maralyn and Davel; four grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Funeral services were at Romulus Community Baptist Church with the Rev. Hiram McBurrows officiating.

Interment was at Westlawn Cemetery in Wayne.

Arrangements were entrusted to the Penn Funeral Home.

MCGREW, Elbert Lee

Elbert Lee McGrew, 61, of Inkster, died Feb. 12, in Garden City.

Among his survivors are his former wife, Annie; a daughter, Rochelle; a stepson, Lorenzo; four grandchildren and four step-grandchildren.

Funeral services were at the Penn Funeral Home with the Rev. Terry Hister officiating.

KEITH, Betty Doris

Betty Doris Samuels Keith, 84, of Milan, formerly of Inkster, died Jan. 11.

Among her survivors are her daughters, Betty Doris Keith Eaddy, Janet



Charlyn Keith Gholston, Phyllis Laverne Keith, and Joyce Anna Keith; four sons, Gregory Earshery Keith, Sr., Amos Milton Keith, Samuels Arnold Keith and David Phares Keith; grandchildren, Rochelle, Jaso and Rebecca Eaddy, Robert, Mark, Maurice and Malcom Gholston, Damali Keith, Althea (Nikki) Long, Samuels (Javo) Keith, Tracy Price, Gregory Jr., and Christopher Keith, Andrew, Artis, Amos Keith II and Donnielle Campbell, Johnathan Keith and sister; 22 great-grandchildren, Raven Eaddy, Mark Jr. and Miya Gholston, Garvis, Gavar, Abagayl and Amialia Long, Dyanni and Divinity Price, Brennen Cortell, Kristian Keith and Korey Russell, Eric Smiley, Mari Keith, Davonna, Makayla and Danea Campbell, Trevin and Isaiah Keith and Nikko.

Mrs. Keith is also mourned by Bradley Keith Jr. of Atlanta, Gloria Houser, Garnet Thomas, Maxine Mackie, Adolphus (deceased) and Michael Keith of Detroit. She was also grandmother to Bradley Anne and Brandon Keith, Sharon Moore, Cynthanee Miller, Jeffery (deceased) and Ruffus Ingram, Stephanie Flanagan, Miata and Kalia Keith and Anthony and Kentnita Keith; five sisters and three brothers. She also leaves to cherish her memory many nieces and nephews and her church family.

Funeral services were at Clinton Street Greater Bethlehem Temple in Detroit, where Mrs. Keith had been a member since she was 12, with the District Elder Shedrick Clark Sr. officiating.

**KEITH, Bradley Sr.**

Bradley Keith Sr., 95, of Milan, formerly of Inkster, died Jan. 26.

Mr. Bradley died unexpectedly 15 days after the death of his wife of 61 years, Betty

(Samuels) Keith. (See obituary at left).

In addition to the couple's children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren listed at left, Mr. Keith is survived by a sister, Gracie Keith Walker.

Funeral services were at Clinton Street Greater Bethlehem Temple in Detroit with District Elder Shedrick Clark Sr. officiating.

Interment for the couple was at Lincoln Memorial Cemetery in Clinton Township.

CARTER, Murray

Murray L. Carter, 77, died Feb. 27.

Among his survivors are his wife, Janet M.; his children, Murray L. Jr., Bersheril L. (Bennie) Bailey, Kelvin B. and Sue C. (Craig) Carnell; brother, Leon (Delia) Carter; six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were at the Smith Chapel A.M.E. Church in Inkster.

Arrangements were entrusted to the R.G. and G.R. Harris Funeral Home in Garden City.

BROOKS, Kenneth William

Kenneth William Brooks, 50, of New Boston, died Jan. 15.

Among his survivors are his sister, Mag (Frank) Migda and his life partner, Theresa Fick.

Funeral services were at Michigan Memorial Funeral Home in Flat Rock.

Interment with military honors was at Michigan Memorial Park Cemetery.

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Students at Barth Elementary School in Romulus recently donated \$1,770 for local charities during Charity Spirit Week. Sheila Stasek, left, physical education teacher and students Sheila Watts, Brooklyn Isbell and Christina Dean presented a check for about \$450 to Angela Bingham and Tracey Long, representatives of the American Heart Association, at a special school assembly.

Spirited effort

Students' fundraiser generates \$1770 for charity

Students at Barth Elementary School in Romulus tapped into the spirit of giving when they collected nearly \$2,000 for local charities.

Members of the Barth Student Council joined with Sheila Stasak, physical education teacher, and Rob Baty, sixth-grade teacher, to sponsor the annual school Charity Spirit Week.

Each day, students participated in a different activity and brought donations for local charities.

On Monday, which was deemed Crazy Hair Day, students donated about \$300 to the Leukemia Society. On Tuesday, Pajama Day, they collected about \$260 for the Romulus Helping Hand Center. Wednesday was Backward/Inside

Out Day and students donated almost \$350 to the Romulus Foundation.

On Thursday, Favorite Team Day, students donated nearly \$400 to the Make-A-Wish Foundation. And on Friday, Jump Rope for Your Heart Day, they collected about \$450 for the American Heart Association.

Students who contributed received a "Good Citizenship" pin and attended a special assembly during which representatives of the charitable organizations received their donations.

Stasek, Baty and Diane Golka, principal, said the students donated a total of \$1,770, which was about \$150 more than last year.

Wayne County commissioner elected to lead state group

Kay Beard, the longest serving member of the Wayne County Commission, was recently honored by her peers when they re-elected her to another two-year term as president of the Michigan Democratic County Officials (MiDCO).

Beard joined the Wayne County Commission in 1978 and has since been reelected for 13 consecutive terms.

She's lived in the district for more than 49 years and has been active in many community organizations, like the United Way, Friends of Nankin Mills, the Inkster Renaissance Coalition, the Western Wayne County NAACP and the Matrix Human Serves.

Beard represents Inkster,

Westland and a part of Livonia on the commission. She's a Westland resident.

Beard explained that MiDCO is an organization of Democrats who have been elected or appointed as county officials throughout the state. The purpose of the group is to provide services and support the current Democratic county officials, share common problems and solutions and help other Democratic leaders get elected.

Beard has long been active within the Democratic party. She's a member of the National Democratic Party, a board member of the National Democratic County Officials and was the former vice-chair of the 13th Congressional District.

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Publish: March 6, 2003

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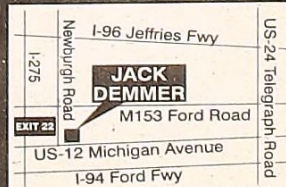
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Local voters could pass up transit plan

Bryon Martin
Staff Writer

State and regional transportation advocates in search of support for a beleaguered transit bill will receive little encouragement from most elected officials in western Wayne County.

Most city and township administrators in this part of Southeast Michigan applaud the opt-out clause that conservative lawmakers in Lansing have added to the package of bills that would create a Detroit Regional Transportation Authority (DARTA).

DARTA proponents say the opt-out clause will gut the package, which is designed to bring existing transit authorities in Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw and Wayne counties under one roof. As proposed, DARTA would initially provide bus service to communities in those counties.

Under the version approved by the state House last month, any three municipalities sharing a border could withdraw from the authority upon a vote of their residents.

With questions hanging about where DARTA buses would go and who would pay for them, township supervisors and city managers call it insurance.

"The opt-out is good for Belleville," said City Manager Steve Walters. "The shape of the plan would be a matter settled by county vote and the east side out-

powers the west side."

"(The opt-out) is great," said Tom Yack, Canton Township supervisor. "If the bill's going to pass, that's the way it should be."

"If (DARTA proponents) are so convinced that it's going to be in the best interest of Southeast Michigan, then pass it and the voters will support it," Yack said. "Voters don't mind supporting services that present some value."

Jerry Rowe, manager of transportation programs for the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG), says that the value of a unified, regional transit system would be measured in reduced traffic congestion and improvements to the local economy and quality of life.

"I understand communities that wonder about the service (they would get from DARTA). It's a legitimate question," he said. "But I think that as they think locally they need to act regionally."

Transit in most western Wayne communities comes as vans for senior citizens who need to visit doctors and run other errands. Most vans pick up riders according to their own needs and make regular shopping trips.

DARTA supporters including SEMCOG have said more broad-based, regional transit could ease unemployment by connecting those who want work but lack cars with the jobs available in other parts of the region. They

"If (DARTA proponents) are so convinced that it's going to be in the best interest of Southeast Michigan, then pass it and the voters will support it."

Tom Yack

also say quality transit provides an option for those who want an alternative to the automobile.

"We did a transit survey and more than 70 percent of respondents said they would ride the buses if they were there," Rowe said. "But it needs to be clean, frequent and safe to be inviting as an alternative ride."

"I know there has been criticism of the current transit system," he said. "The bottom line is that the level of service is not adequate, and it's inadequate because there isn't sufficient funding to run it."

SEMCOG is the regional body through which all federal transportation dollars flow to local governments for projects from roadside landscaping and bike paths to buying buses and resurfacing roads.

Westland Mayor Sandra Cicirelli agrees that transportation funding is and will continue

to be an issue, which is why she is leery of DARTA.

"The funding source is a real key issue," she said. "When you're talking about transit, you're talking about raising tax dollars. I don't think that any of our communities are in a position to deal with the additional millage."

Walters said such reticence is based on the experience he and other officials have had with SMART, one of the Wayne County bus systems that would be absorbed into DARTA.

Yack, Plymouth City Manager Paul Sincok and others agreed that "line-haul" bus routes that run straight paths from Downtown Detroit to destination in the suburbs are of little value to residents who don't travel those specific routes. The SMART funding mechanism was a concern as well.

"We were going to be levied a tax that was going to levy a big chunk of money for service in other communities," Walters said. "A few people (in Plymouth) rode the bus out to Schoolcraft College. The bus went out in morning and came back in evening with maybe four or five people."

Walters remembers Plymouth residents paying about \$80,000 a year in SMART fees at that time. "We joked then that, if we wanted to help these four people really get around, it would've been better to buy each of them a car."

Yack said those who want to make the case for DARTA must first address more fundamental issues, such as the lack of residential density in Detroit, the diffuse spread of communities throughout the region and political leadership in Detroit.

"I don't think this is an issue of black and white," he said. "We're looking at resources and how you harness the resources you have, plot a course and head in that direction."

"Until then it's not a plan," he said. "It's a black hole."

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SPORTS

Romulus edges Inkster on last-second shot

Scott Spielman
Editor

The unbeaten streak for the Inkster Vikings' men's basketball team came to an end Friday night when the Romulus Eagles snatched away a victory at the buzzer.

"It was a good rivalry game," said Inkster Coach Steve Brooks. "A lot of the kids knew each other."

Brooks said the team gave away a big lead in the victory, allowing Romulus to catch and surpass them in the fourth quarter.

"It was more or less what we didn't do at the end," he said. "We just didn't execute."

The Vikings were ahead during the majority of the game, according to Brooks. They led by as much as 15 points at one time, and took a 12-point lead into the fourth quarter.

That's where things started to fall apart.

Four straight Vikings turnovers led to four straight unanswered baskets for the Eagles, and the primarily quiet crowd at Romulus High School picked up on the momentum.

The Eagles continued their rally and went up by four points, Brooks said, but the Vikings weren't done yet.

They battled back and had a one-point lead, 64-63, with just

”

It was more or less what we didn't do at the end. We just didn't execute.

Steve Brooks
Inkster coach

nine seconds left. They had the ball, too, according to Brooks. Brandon Dawson inbounded it, but could find no teammate open so he rolled it down the floor toward the Inkster basket. Victor Morris was nearby, but couldn't get to the ball, which went out of bounds and gave the Eagles one more shot.

They got the ball back in front of their own bench, and Brooks said he was forced to play cautiously to try to protect the one-point lead.

"We were trying not to foul them, which gave them a clear look and a clear shot," Brooks said.

Fortunately for the Eagles, it was star Ron Coleman who had the ball. He took a couple of quick looks at the hoop, didn't find anyone open and launched a turnaround, fade-away jump shot from the three point range. It sailed gracefully through the air and caught the net as the buzzer



The Romulus Eagles came from way behind Friday night to top the previously undefeated Inkster Vikings and win the Mega Red-White tournament. It was a last second shot from Ron Coleman that put the game away.

See **Champs**, page 13



Ice queens

Last week, the Wayne Community Center Figure Skating Competitive Team competed at the 2003 ISI Team Open Skate Championships at the Southgate Civic Center Arena, where they placed second overall. Wayne had three synchronized skating teams, four team compulsory teams and more than 40 individual skaters participate in this three-day event. All of the individuals who competed took home medals in their events. The placement of the teams are as follows: The Wayne Jazettes, first place; The Wayne Jazzers, second place; The Jacksons, sixth place; and The Mob Squad, third place.

Wayne victory sets up rematch

The Wayne Zebras topped Walled Lake Western in a third place crossover last Thursday, 64-52.

They withstood a strong third quarter from the Warriors and received a strong show from their three main stars, said Wayne Coach Wayne Woodard.

The Zebras took an 18-11 lead after the first quarter, and added a point to it with a 16-15 second quarter. They led 34-26 at half time, but the

Warriors edged two points from the lead with a 16-14 third quarter. An 18-10 run in the fourth sealed it for Wayne.

T.J. McClain led the Zebras with 17 points. Genoio Safford had 15 and Darré Johnson had 11. Woodard said it was a much closer game than when the two teams met early in the season. In that game, they had a 24-1 lead after the

See **Zebras**, page 12

Chiefs improve as district tourney starts

Scott Spielman
Editor

The Canton Chiefs finished their regular season on a positive note Friday, when they topped Livonia Stevenson in a playoff crossover.

The Chiefs topped the Spartans 54-48 in front of a home crowd at PCEP.

Canton Coach Jeremy Rheault said the middle two quarters spelled the difference for the Chiefs.

After the first quarter, the score was tied at 12. Their defense clamped down and their offense took advantage of a couple of miscues in the second quarter, when the Chiefs went on a 15-8 run to take a seven point lead at half time.

They came out strong in the third quarter, too, and soon had a 10-point lead before the Spartans tried to rally.

"We really hung in there well against a couple of their rushes," Rheault said.

An 11-8 run in the third quarter put the Chiefs up by 10 going into the fourth quarter. The Spartans were tough there, though. They racked up 20 points against Canton. The Chiefs put 16 on the board and held off the Spartans come back.

"They really came at us and made

”

We'll just have to hang in there to wait and see if our improvement at the end of the year will carry us.

Canton Coach
Jeremy Rheault

some big plays," Rheault said.

Steven Thornton had a good night for the Chiefs. He scored 20 points and brought back 13 rebounds.

"He was hitting everything," Rheault said.

D.J. Bridges contributed 16 points in the win.

The Chiefs had a bye on Monday night, and played the winner of the Churchill-Novii match up last night. The outcome of that game wasn't known at press time.

Rheault said Monday night that either team could give them problems, though. Novi is their league champion and Churchill handed the Chiefs a loss just last week.

"We'll just have to hang in there to wait and see if our improvement at the end of the year will carry us," Rheault said.

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ENVIRONMENT

Canton Crushers place well in union tourney

Scott Spielman
Editor

The varsity wrestling season may be over for the Canton Chiefs, but the competitions continue.

Coach Casey Randolph formed up a Canton wrestling club called the Canton Crushers, which took part in a Amateur Athletic Union meet at Henry Ford High School on Saturday. He's got about 30 members of the

club, about half of which are junior high school aged, and the rest is comprised of the returning varsity squad, Randolph said.

He took six wrestlers to the meet – mid-winter break vacations depleted the squad – and four of them placed at the competition.

Brent Winekoff took first place in the novice division (80 lbs); Ryan Schnettler took third in the 82-pound class of the cadet division; Corey Phillips took second

“
We're excited. Having these kids compete before they make it to high school will help tremendously.
Coach Casey Randolph

in the 135 division of the cadet class and Ryan Webb took second

in the 145-pound class of the elite division. Corey Breitmeyer (135) and Ryan Winekoff (60) also won matches, but didn't place, Randolph said.

Randolph said he formed the club to help foster young wrestling talent, and to give his varsity guys some additional practice in competition.

“We're excited,” he said. “Having these kids compete before they make it to high school will help tremendously.”

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Champs - Romulus opens district play with win

FROM PAGE 11

sounded. Romulus fans, quiet for the first three quarters of the game, mobbed Coleman in celebration.

The win gave the Eagles (15-5 overall) the Mega Red-White championship.

The Vikings, (19-1 overall) are now preparing for the district play.

Morris led the Vikings with 26 points. Dawson contributed 14 as did Duane Jones. Coleman led the Eagles with 26 points.

Brooks said the Vikings were a little dispirited after the loss. But he pointed out that they had won their last two games in a similar fashion, and it was probably just a matter of time before the ball fell the other way.

“That's high school basket-

ball,” he said.

They took a bye in the first round of the district tournament and will play the Academy of Inkster on Wednesday.

“You can't let one game destroy all you've accomplished during the whole season,” said Brooks.

“Fortunately it wasn't the very last game of the season. We'll just keep on going.”



The Romulus Eagles had a lot to celebrate Friday night when they upset the Inkster Vikings, 66-64 to earn the title in the Mega Red-White tournament. The Eagles also got off to a good start in the districts, with a last second win over Garden City.

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2003 BOARD OF REVIEW

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AND
3:00 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M.

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INKSTER CITY CLERK

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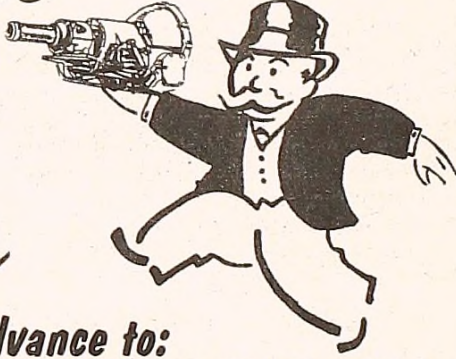
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59. Auctions

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Joannie D. Payne
Van Buren Township Clerk
Published: March 6, 2003

60. Misc. Sales

Estate Sale Wayne Sat & Sun, 10-6 34801 Glover, Van Born & Howe

89. Apartments For Rent

Plymouth LAKE POINTE VILLAGE APARTMENTS

Includes heat and water, porch or balcony, swimming pool, community building, basement storage.

1 & 2 Bedrooms Available From \$ 605
ASK ABOUT OUR SPECIALS

Open Daily • Saturdays 12-3

Call Manager
734.453.1597

1990 -- DODGE -- 4WD
1B3XA7637LF712059
1995 -- PLYMOUTH-- SW
1P4GH54R8SX500328
1988 -- FORD -- 2D
FABP8899JW308231
1986 -- CHEVROLET --2D
1G1FP87H5GL185521
1990 -- MERCURY -- 2D
1MEPM6048LH616834
1989 -- OLDSMOBILE --4D
1G3NT54N6KM232338
1989--FORD--VN
1FMCA11U0KZA85949
1994 -- MERCURY -- 2D
1MELM6249RH635994

Upon completion, the auction will move to Great Lakes Towing and storage, 42350 Van Born Rd. Belleville MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder.

1983 -- FORD - TK
1F0J27E3B18072
1988 -- PONTIAC -- 2D
1G2JD11K2J7568617
1991 -- PONTIAC -- 4D
1G2NE54U5MC541992
1995 -- STOUGHTON -TL
1DW1A5329SS006490
1986 -- MERCURY - 2D
1MEBP9233GH612056
1986 -- HONDA -- 2D
JHMBB5236GC000468
1990 -- CHRYSLER -4D
1C3XY66RXL734985
1984 -- PONTIAC -- 2D
1G2AW87H4EL232074
1988 -- CHEVROLET-4D
1G1LT5114JY642452
1985 -- FORD -- VN
1FTDE14Y8FHA86029
1986 -- FORD -- VN
1FDDE14N5GHB76824
1984 -- OLDSMOBILE-4D
1G3AY69Y3EM727089

All vehicles are sold in "as is condition". Bidding on all vehicles will start at the amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

Bankruptcy "List Only"

You pick the dates
SPECIAL OFFER - 12 cents/name
includes name, address, available phone numbers

Millennium Marketing
248-358-5824

Estate Sale

2 matching down sofas and Lounge chair, curve leather sectional, glass top dinette & 4 chairs, bedroom sets, assorted upholstered chairs, end tables, coffee tables, pictures & Misc.

Call: 248-380-0555

61. Misc. Items

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BUYING! BUYING! BUYING!

We want to buy your coins, watches, and jewelry. Also dishes, glassware, figurines, sterling silver, charm bracelets, toys, autographs and sports memorabilia! Call Lawrence Grey

313-543-2515

57. Antiques

MOTOR CITY ANTIQUE GALLERY



13431 Telegraph
Flat Rock, MI 48134
(734) 782-4018



1 3/4 miles South of Flat Rock
4 1/2 miles North of I-275

Tue.-Sat. 10am-6pm
Sun. 12pm-6pm

17,000 Sq. Ft.
100 + Dealers



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46001 Warren Road • just west of Canton-Center



Sunday Worship at 9:30 am
Sunday School at 10:45 am

734-414-7422



TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

10101 W. Ann Arbor Rd. • Plymouth, MI 48185
5 Miles W. of Sheldon Rd.

Worship Services
8:30 am, 9:45 am & 11:15 am

Education Program
9:45 am & 11:15 am

734-459-9550

Nursery & Children's Programs at ALL 3 Services
Dr. Wm. C. Moore - Pastor



First Baptist Church

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Family Dinner & Programs 6:00 p.m.
Lay Institute for Christian Studies 6:30 p.m.

4500 N. Territorial Rd.
Plymouth, MI 48170
(2 blocks west of Sheldon Road)

An Intergenerational Fellowship

Risen Christ Lutheran

46250 Ann Arbor Road (1 mile West of Sheldon)
Plymouth • 453-5252

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8:15 & 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School (Adults & Children) 9:30 a.m.

Pastor David Martin



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Consulting
Great Hourly
Rate!!!

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Willett
Communications

RUMMAGE SALE!!!

1/2 Blk. off Wayne on
Wallace St. 35245 Wallace
St. Sale on the Fri 3/7 &
Sat 3/8 from 9 - 5.
See you there!

61. Misc. Items

3 Office partitions grey
fabric & frame never used /
boxed connectors, wall
mounts & bases
included. \$350.00
734-721-0300

Office Furniture MUST GO!!!!

Used office furniture to
sell.... CASH & CARRY!!!
Wooden Desks, Filing
Cabinets, Chairs and
much much more!!! Please
call 734-467-1900 and
inquire about this advertise-
ment for more informa-
tion!! The sooner the
cheaper!!! Everything
MUST GO!!!!

CALL: 734-467-1900

88. Duplexes For Rent

2 Bedroom Duplex, Inkster
Area, Basement,
Garage, Fenced Yard call
(734) 728-5838.

WESTLAND-NORWAYNE,
call for list of available 2 &
3 BR duplexes.
Norplex Associates,
734-722-6444. EHO

89. Apartments For Rent

1 Bedroom efficiency
apartment in Wayne.
All utilities paid.
\$140 / week
Call: 734-729-5770

Apartments for rent in
Wayne, MI / 1 BDRM \$500
/ 2 BDRM \$525 includes
heat and water. No Pets.
Call: 734-981-4096

BELLEVILLE, SPACIOUS
CLEAN 1 BDRM, HEAT
INCL, OFF STREET PARK-
ING, CAT OKAY, AFFORD-
ABLE (734) 483-1521

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Apartments is located 3
blocks South of Belleville
Rd. (Main St.) On Huron
River Drive. Spacious 1 &
2 Bedroom apartments
starting at \$535.00. Fitness
Center, Extensive storage,
Minutes from Eastern, MI
University, Metro Airport &
U of M, January rent is free
so call 734-699-2042 for
more information. Please
see our display advertise-
ment for more information.

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deck, natural brick and
hardwood floors in
Downtown Plymouth.
Newly renovated, 1-year
lease, no pets! Great
Location.
To apply

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\$495MO, instant appr. for
airline employees, Inkster
area, 1bl off MICH AVE.,
Zero Deposit
if quality!
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Near Wayne Road - Nice
clean 1 Bedroom - Heat,
Water & Appl. Included -
No Pets / \$475 & up...
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(313) 506-6100

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55 and Older
Inkster Housing
Commission
2000 Inkster Road
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EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

WESTLAND 1-2 bdrm.,
nice and clean, incl. heat,
water and gas, \$500-1
bdrm., \$575-2 bdrm.
734-326-2770

96. Houses For Rent

BELLEVILLE
3 BEDROOM,
AIR, GARAGE,
APPLIANCES -- \$750

WAYNE
SPACIOUS 2 BEDROOM,
FENCED -- \$650

RENTAL PROFESIONALS 734-513-RENT

ROMULUS
Bungalow, garage,
fenced, water paid -- \$700
3 bedroom, garage,
option to buy -- \$850

RENTAL

PROFESSIONALS 734-513-RENT WESTLAND

ranch, shed, fenced for
pets -- \$550
3 bedroom ranch, deck,
garage, appliances -- \$750

RENTAL PROFESSIONALS 734-513-RENT

103. Business Property

15,000 sq foot building for
sale or lease. Lease part or
all. Michigan Avenue / 1
mile east of Ypsilanti
Call: 734-482-2147

106. Houses For Sale

Troy \$254,900
2246 Traverse
North of Big Beaver &
South of Wattles.
Wonderful 2400 Sq. Foot
home w/4 bedrooms, 2
baths, 2 car garage situat-
ed on large lot in a great
neighborhood. Half fin-
ished basement,
lots of extras.
Must See!
248-689-3374

107. Condos & Town- houses For Sale

2BR RANCH CONDO,
2BTH, GREAT ROOM, LG
KITCHEN, 2C GAR, \$1475
NEUTRAL COLOR, EX
COND 248-642-2835 OR
734-576-2415.

BOLD

TYPE

ATTRACTS

MORE

READERS

115. Autos For Sale

APPROVED AUTO LOANS YOUR JOB IS YOUR CREDIT!

1. Income of \$1300/mo.
2. 6 mos. on your job.
3. Copy of phone bill.
4. Valid drivers license.
Previous turn downs -
Looking to re-establish
credit. Call Stacy
at 734-482-1222 for free 10
minute pre-approval.
Apply today!
Drive Today!

YOUR JOB IS YOUR CREDIT!! APPROVED AUTO LOANS

1. Income of \$1300/mo.
2. 6 mos. on your job.
3. Copy of phone bill.
4. Valid drivers license.
Previous turn downs -
Looking to re-establish
credit. Call Stacy at 734-
482-1222 for free 10 minute
pre-approval.
Apply Today-
Drive Today

GUARANTEED AUTO LOANS!

1. Income of \$1300/mo.
2. 6 mos. on your job.
3. Copy of phone bill.
4. Valid drivers license.
Previous turn downs -
Looking to re-establish
credit. Call Stacy
at 734-482-1222 for free 10
minute pre-approval.
YOUR JOB IS YOUR
CREDIT

Call 734-467-1900
to place
your classified ad.

DRIVE TODAY IF YOU APPLY TODAY!

1. Income of \$1300/mo.
2. 6 mos. on your job.
3. Copy of phone bill.
4. Valid drivers license.
Previous turn downs -
Looking to re-establish
credit. Call Stacy at 734-
482-1222 for free 10 minute
pre-approval.

YOUR JOB IS YOUR CREDIT APPROVED AUTO LOANS

BOLD

TYPE

ATTRACTS

MORE

READERS

92. Business Places For Rent

STORES-OFFICES FOR RENT

2003 BUDGET RATES!

2,920 SF - \$1,500/MO.

1,400 SF - \$700/MO.

1,000 SF - \$500/MO.

1,000 SF Medical w/
x-ray room - \$950/MO.

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(248) 557-0303

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35728 Van Born • Wayne



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•Private Entrance
•Pool/Tennis Court

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On Grand River between
Meadowbrook & Novi Rd.
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WESTLAND

Newburg between
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WAVE APPLICATION FEE**
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1 & 2
Bedroom Apts

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•Minutes from Eastern MI
University, Metro Airport
& U of M
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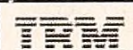
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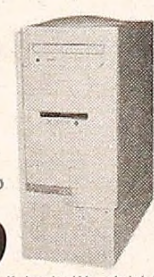


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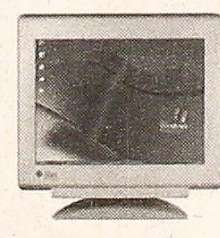
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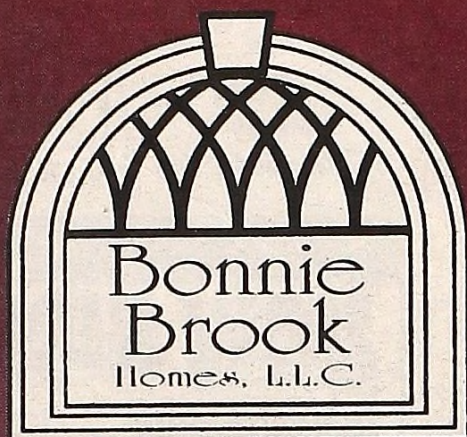
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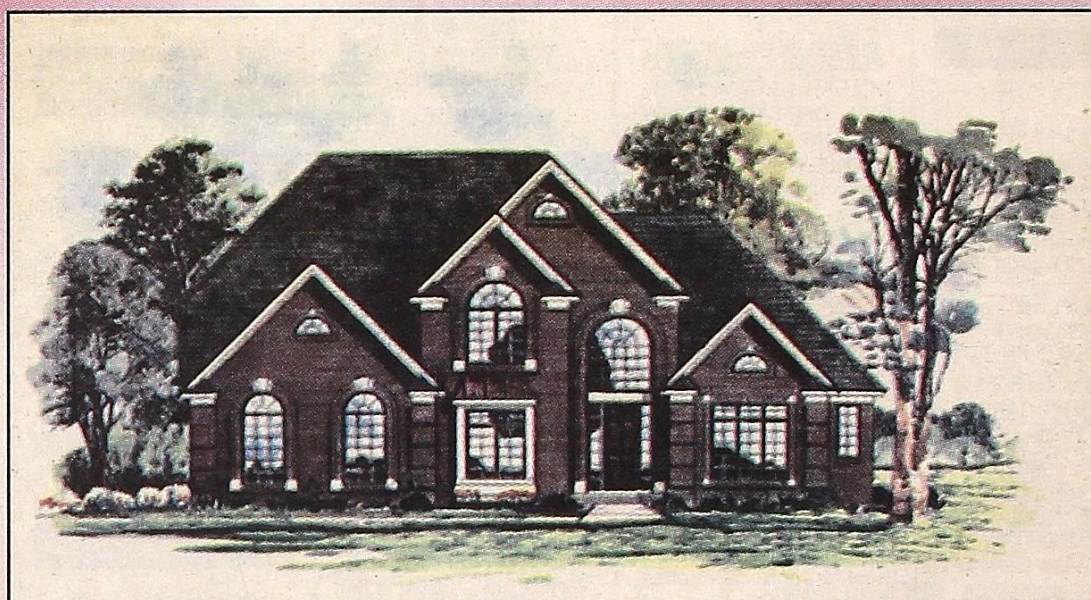
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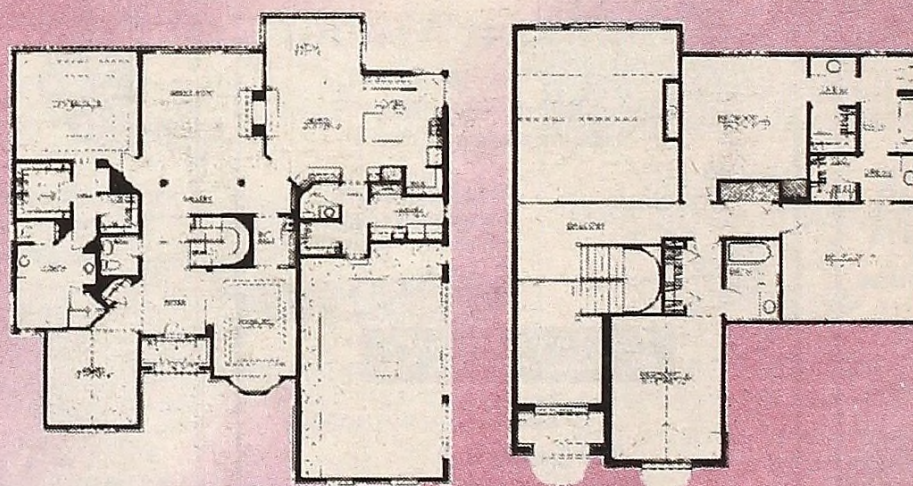
LAPHAM LAKE ESTATES OF SALEM TOWNSHIP



The Classic

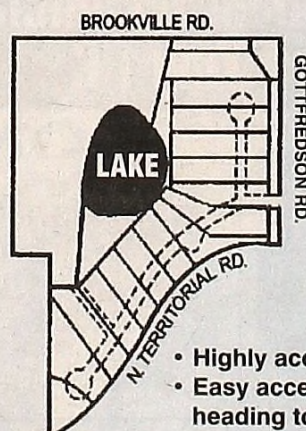
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